

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Sheila McNeill for receiving the 2019 Distinguished Civilian Award by the Naval Submarine League.

Ms. McNeill was the first-ever woman to win this award, and I could not be more proud of the work she has done in the First Congressional District of Georgia over the last 20 years.

Living in Camden County, near the Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base, she has advocated for the U.S. submarine force at both the national and local levels, often traveling to Washington and meeting with dozens of Members of Congress to keep our submarines at sea, protecting our Nation.

On one specific occasion, Ms. McNeill was critical in retaining the Nation's first four ballistic missile submarines by converting them into guided-missile submarines. Her commitment to the Armed Forces extends deeply into the surrounding communities, ensuring that they maintain close-knit relationships through her work as president of the Camden Partnership.

Mr. Speaker, I thank and congratulate Ms. McNeill for her work in the First Congressional District of Georgia.

#### HONORING CONGRESSMAN JOHN CONYERS' LIFE AND LEGACY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of the late Congressman John Conyers and to extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Monica, his family, children, former staff, and the people of Detroit, who he served so well for more than 50 years.

Congressman Conyers was a tireless advocate for racial and economic justice and an ardent defender of civil rights. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for his unwavering commitment to pushing our Nation to live up to its ideals of liberty and justice for all. That is his legacy.

I met Congressman Conyers during my time as a staffer to our beloved late Congressman Ron Dellums, who was also a cofounder of the Congressional Black Caucus with Congressman Conyers. They were very close friends and worked together on many issues, including the establishment of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal holiday. I always remember staffing the many meetings with Ron, Congressman Conyers, and the legendary Stevie Wonder, who worked with us as we planned our outside-inside strategy for the holiday legislation. And it worked.

John believed in our democracy and the power of the people. He recognized that the only way democracy can work is with the input, vision, and voice of the people.

Congressman Conyers stood on the front lines of the fight for so many important issues during his time in office,

and he was cosponsor of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. I probably wouldn't be standing here as a Member of Congress had it not been for Congressman Conyers.

As a cofounder of the Congressional Black Caucus, he focused the Nation's attention on racial inequality and injustices faced by African Americans around the country, from inequity in education, to poverty, to mass incarceration. He stood up for those who needed his advocacy the most.

Of course, when Rosa Parks fell on hard times after refusing to give up her seat on a segregated Montgomery bus, in what launched the civil rights movement, John hired her to work in his district office in Detroit, where she worked until she retired in 1988.

For more than 30 years, he fought for H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act, which calls for a commission to study reparations for descendants of enslaved people from Africa.

Congressman Conyers, Chairman Conyers, he was masterful, drawing a connection between the historical injustices faced by African Americans and the present-day inequities experienced in our communities.

I am so proud to support H.R. 40 today and to continue his work. In his honor, I hope that my colleagues support Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE's efforts to take H.R. 40 over the finish line.

Congressman Conyers was a progressive champion who fought for all of us. He was an early supporter of single-payer healthcare. I believe the bill was H.R. 676, which I was proud to cosponsor.

He fought to ensure that every American has access to quality, affordable healthcare. He fought to protect our safety net so that folks who needed a helping hand, no matter their color, can keep a roof over their heads and food on the table.

He spoke out vocally against the Trump administration's attacks on civil rights and human rights for people of color and the LGBTQ community. Indeed, though Congressman Conyers represented Detroit, he truly fought for all Americans and earned his affectionate name of "America's Congressman."

Also, John formed the Poor People's Caucus in the House, where he encouraged Members to speak out for the poor and low-income folks.

In his memory, let us fight for the most vulnerable Americans. Like our friend, Congressman Elijah Cummings, who we recently lost as well, Congressman Conyers' legacy and impact will live on, though he is no longer with us. His legacy should continue to inspire us to keep up the fight for justice and equality, which he dedicated his life to.

Mr. Speaker, so today, once again, I offer my condolences to Monica, to Congressman Conyers' family and loved ones, and join them in cele-

brating his life and legacy. May he rest in peace, and may he rest in power.

#### COMMEMORATING OXI DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to be recognized to address you here on the floor of the House of Representatives. I rise to honor, this week, to celebrate what actually took place on Monday, the 28th of October, Oxi Day, the 79th anniversary.

I wanted to address this because of the strong spirit of the Greek people, who rose up against the Axis Powers 79 years ago this week when a representative of Hitler's Axis Powers, who happened to be the minister from the Italians, arrived at the residence of the Greek leader Metaxas and demanded that they surrender Greece to the Italians and the Axis forces.

There, Metaxas looked him in the eye and said, boldly and strongly, "Oxi," which is Greek for "no." That is the most resounding "no" that I know of in history, Mr. Speaker. That resounding "no" inspired the Greek people.

Within hours, the Italians and the Axis forces had started their invasion of Greece, and they were overconfident. They thought they would waltz in because they had all kinds of military firepower, but what they underestimated was the tenacity of the Greek fighters, their knowledge of the terrain, and defending their own soil.

They were defeated, and the Greeks chased the Italians back to Italy, which forced, then, Adolf Hitler to divert five divisions down through Greece and down through the Balkans into Greece to put down the—they called it a revolution or a resurrection. What it really was, was inspired people defending their country, the very cradle of democracy. As Hitler diverted the five divisions down to Greece, he was already planning the Operation Barbarossa.

I want the body to know, Mr. Speaker, that the original date for the invasion of Russia under Operation Barbarossa by Hitler that his Nazi forces put together was scheduled to be May 12, the following spring. This is late October, the last days of October. So when he diverted his five divisions down to suppress what he said was the resurrection in the Balkans, which was the Greeks defending the cradle of freedom, that delayed his ability to invade Russia.

This tenacious battle on the part of the Greeks—now, I should also put it into context here, that no one expected such a small nation to derail the unstoppable Axis forces. They had watched as the Axis forces had gone through Czechoslovakia and Poland, Romania and France, and down through the Balkans. It looked like those Axis forces were going to sweep over the world. It didn't look like there